

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ABF-01 EB-08 COME-00 INT-05 TRSE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 992

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AGAD, EMIN, J

SUBJECT: GAO REVIEW OF NON-BAUXITIC U.S. SOURCES OF ALUMINUM

REF: STATE 109815

1. EMBASSY APPRECIATES IMPORTANCE OF SUBJECT BUT HOPES THAT REVIEW CAN BE CONDUCTED WITHOUT A JAMAICA INPUT. IF THE REVIEW MUST UNCLUDE INFORMATION ON BAUXITE-ALUMINA-ALUMINUM AS SEEN FROM JAMAICA, WE SUGGEST THAT GAO PREPARE QUESTIONS AND ISSUES ON WHICH INFORMATION IS REQUIRED, WHICH EMBASSY STAFF WOULD THEN ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN. IF IT IS DEEMED INDISPENSABLE FOR GAO REPRESENTATIVES TO CONDUCT PERSONAL INTERVIEWS, WE HOPE THAT THESE WOULD BE LIMITED TO U.S. GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. WE ARE NOT CLEAR WHY LOCAL ALUMINUM COMPANY MANAGERS NEED BE APPROACHED HERE INASMUCH AS U.S. BASED COMPANY OFFICIALS WOULD BE ABLE TO SUPPLY INFORMATION ON GOVERNMENT POLICIES, ALUMINA REFINING TECHNIQUES AND OTHER RELEVANT ITEMS. IN ANY EVENT, A GAO VISIT AT THIS TIME IS IMPROPITIOUS.

2. GOJ AND ALUMINUM COMPANIES ARE INVOLVED IN NEGOTIATIONS ON PRODUCTION, THE LEVY, EXCHANGE RATE AND OTHER MATTERS. REPRESENTATIVES FROM A USG AGENCY
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LOOKING INTO GOVERNMENT POLICIES, GUTURE PRICES AND OTHER QUESTIONS, WOULD BE SUSPECT AND COULD BE REGARDED AS A FORM OF UNWARRANTED INTERFERENCE, EVEN IN INDIRECT. ALSO, INASMUCH AS IMF/GOJ DISCUSSIONS HAVE INCLUDED ISSUES RELATING TO FOREIGN PRIVATE INVESTMENT AND THE NEED TO ENCOURAGE FOREIGN PRIVATE CAPITAL INFLOWS, SUCH A VISITATION COULD BE MISREAD AS AN EFFORT TO PRESSURE GOJ TO OFFER

CONCESSIONS TO ALUMINUM COMPANIES. WITH THE SUBJECT ONE WHICH SEEMS TO INVOLVE THE PROSPECT OF REDUCING U.S. MARKET DEPENDENCE UPON THE LIFE BLOOD OF JAMAICA'S ECONOMY, IT IS UNDERSTANDABLE HOW SUCH A VISIT AND INQUIRY WOULD BE UNWELCOME AT BEST AND, AT WORST, VULNERABLE TO ALL SORTS OF INTERPRETATIONS ADVERSE TO USG/GOJ RELATIONS.

4. EMBASSY THEREFORE RESPECTFULLY URGES, IF INFORMATION ON THE JAMAICA SITUATION IS INDISPENSABLE, THAT IT BE ACQUIRED AS SUGGESTED IN PARA 1. IF A VISIT MUST BE MADE, WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT IT BE DEFERRED UNTIL SUCH TIME AS SUCH AN EXTRAORDINARILY SENSITIVE SUBJECT MIGHT BE BROACHED BY OUTSIDE USG OFFICIALS WITH A MINIMUM OF UNDESIREABLE CONSEQUENCES.
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Message Attributes

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